

DRAFT
18 February 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Streamlining Management of Imagery Reconnaissance

1. We need to streamline our management of imagery reconnaissance collection and exploitation to make it responsive to and compatible with the President's new structure for management of the intelligence community.

2. I propose that the following changes be made by the DCI to the present mechanisms of the ExCom and the Committee for Imagery Reconnaissance and Exploitation.

a. A new group -- named the Committee for Imagery Requirements (COMIR) -- should be established under the Committee for Foreign Intelligence. The COMIR will have three members -- one each from the State Department, Defense Department, and Central Intelligence Agency. One of the three members will be named as Chairman of COMIR by the DCI. NRO, NPIC and NSA will provide Advisers to COMIR.

b. COMIR will replace, and perform those policy and program recommendation and decision functions now performed by, ExCom and COMIREX.

c. Staff support for COMIR will be provided by the NRO and NPIC respectively.

d. The present Exploitation Subcommittee of COMIREX and the I _____ C _____ R _____

Subcommittee of COMIREX will be abolished. The permanent staffs of COMIREX and those subcommittees will be assigned to the National Photographic Interpretation Center. The Director, NPIC will consolidate those staffs in an organizational mechanism which will perform necessary functions of reviewing, developing and assigning imagery collection and exploitation tasking and priorities.

3. These changes will bring the following advantages:

a. Create a small steering group for all aspects of National Imagery Reconnaissance Programs which can make necessary recommendations to the CFI and direct accomplishment of CFI decisions. The group would reflect the clean lines of responsibility in the CFI.

b. The COMIR would review and consider both collection and exploitation aspects of imagery reconnaissance programs.

c. Responsibility for the day-to-day actions and structuring of plans responsive to CFI and COMIR policies would be that of the NRO and NPIC respectively, coordinating with each other and with other organizations as needed.

d. The healthy organizational separation between the collectors (NRO, etc.) and the exploiters (NPIC, etc.) would be sustained. The role and responsibility of NPIC would be enhanced and more usefully match that of NRO.

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e. There would be a direct interaction between the customer organizations and NPIC, and between NPIC and NRO, which would enlighten and sharpen the choices to be made in the trade-offs among collection program resources, exploitation resources, and results desired.